

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05495 260918Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /048 W
-----043159 261211Z /43
R 260851Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1890

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5495

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: INDICTMENT OF REV. IN MYONG-CHIN

REF: A) STATE 158622; B) SEOUL 3765

1. REV. IN MYONG-CHIN, ARRESTED MAY 1, 1978, HAS BEEN INDICTED ON TWO CHARGES: (1) VIOLATION OF COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LAW AND (2) VIOLATION OF PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECREE NUMBER 9. ACCORDING TO KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (KNCC), HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, REV. IN IS BEING HELD AT SEOUL'S YONGDUNGPO PRISON AND HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED VISITORS SINCE HIS ARREST. TRIAL DATE IS NOT KNOWN.

2. ACCORDING TO COPY OF INDICTMENT (OBTAINED FROM KNCC), FIRST CHARGE CONCERNS REV. IN'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW FEB. 1, 1978 INSPECTION OF UIM COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION RECORDS BY MINFINANCE OFFICIALS (SEE REF B). SECOND CHARGE STEMS FROM APRIL 17, 1978 "PRAYER MEETING FOR OPPRESSED FARMERS" HELD AT CALVIN CHURCH OF CHONGJU. REV. IN IS CHARGED WITH HAVING "FABRICATED AND DISSEMINATED GROUNDLESS RUMORS AND FALSEHOODS" WHILE LECUTRING AT THE PRAYER MEETING. ACCORDING TO INDICTMENT, REV. IN ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JUDGES AND PRISON OFFICIALS OF HAVING ACCEPTED BRIBES AND ABUSE OF POWER. REV. IN IS QUOTED, "IF YOU HAVE MONEY, YOU ARE NOT GUILTY; IF YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY
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YOU ARE GUILTY. THE REAL THIEVES ARE OUTSIDE PRISON, AND EVEN IN THE PRISON, IF YOU HAVE MONEY, IT'S NOT SO BAD."

3. KNCC INFORMED EMBASSY THEY PLAN TO PUBLICIZE REV. IN'S CASE TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN ASIA. IN PARTICULAR, KNCC HUMAN

RIGHTS DIRECTOR YI KYONG-BAE SAID ROKG AUTHORITIES HAD
CITED REV. IN'S READING FROM OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES
DURING 4/17 PRAYER MEETING. (YI CLAIMED THESE WERE
SOME PASSAGES QUOTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN INAUGURAL
ADDRESS). YI NOTED THIS IS FIRST CASE WHERE SCRIPTURAL
READING WAS CITED IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMINAL INDICTMENT.
(NOTE: EMBASSY'S COPY OF INDICTMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN
ANY REFERENCE TO ABOVE.)
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0654
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780620/aaaaaqyw.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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